

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PER-05 OC-06

CCO-00 SS-15 OPR-02 USIA-15 AID-05 PC-05 NSC-05

H-02 AGRE-00 /103 W

-----064779 260601Z /16

R 251405Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9623

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMCONGEN FRANKFURT

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 1540

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ACOU, MA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TEMPORARY CLOSING OF IVATO AIRPORT

1. SUMMARY: ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC TO ANTANANARIVO WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM IVATO TO ARIVONIMAMO AIRPORT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, PROBABLY BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 5. THIS WILL CAUSE SEVERAL CHANGES TO FLIGHT SCHEDULES AND LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR THE AIRLINES AND THEIR PASSENGERS. END SUMMARY.

2. WELL-INFORMED LOCAL SOURCES REPORT THAT ANTANANARIVO'S IVATO AIRPORT IS SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED TO LARGE AIRCRAFT FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO AND A HALF MONTHS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 5 TO ENABLE CONSTRUCTION AT THE AIRPORT, PRESUMABLY TO ACCEPT WIDE-BODY AIRCRAFT. DURING IVATO'S CLOSING, ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC WILL USE ARIVONIMAMO AIRPORT.

3. ARIVONIMAMO IS APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR'S DRIVE FROM ANTANANARIVO AND HAS NOT BEEN USED AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN ALMOST 10 YEARS. ALL ITS FACILITIES ARE LIMITED. THE RUNWAY IS APPROXIMATELY 600 METERS SHORTER AND 500 FEET HIGHER THAN THE ONE AT IVATO. FURTHERMORE,

WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO TRAFFIC WILL BE ALLOWED IN OR OUT OF ARIVONIMAMO AFTER 17:30 LOCAL, WHICH WILL NECESSITATE SEVERAL CHANGES IN AIRLINE FLIGHT SCHEDULES. BECAUSE OF THIS AND SEVERAL OTHER LOGISTICAL & COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS, WE BELIEVE THAT AIR TRAVEL TO AND FROM ANTANANARIVO WILL BECOME QUITE DIFFICULT AND THAT TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT AS WELL AS PROCESSING AT THE AIRPORT WILL BE CUMBERSOME AT BEST.

4. THEREFORE ANYONE PLANNING TO PASS THROUGH ANTANANARIVO IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER SHOULD EXPECT LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN FLIGHT SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES ON ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE.

5. THE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 5 HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. EMBASSY WILL CONFIRM OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO ALL ADDRESSEES WHEN IT BECOME AVAILABLE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE PROJECTED TWO AND A HALF MONTHS CLOSING IS OPTIMISTIC AND THAT IVATO MAY REMAIN CLOSED FOR THREE OF FOUR MONTHS. BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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